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State Treasurer Addresses Kiwanis About The Economy

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Indiana State Treasurer Richard Mourdock addressed Kiwanis members in Wesley Manor's Social Center on Tuesday, giving attendees a mixed report on the economy.

In discussing the nation's economy, Mourdock cited the \$736 billion trade deficit the U.S. carried last year.

"Our dollar is growing weaker because of that," he said.

Murdock noted that this has contributed to the U.S. dollar's depreciation against foreign currency.

"A troubling sign for our economy," he said.

Touching on the subprime mortgage crisis facing the country, Mourdock warned attendees against believing the situation does not affect small-town America.

"You could not be more incorrect in that assumption," he said. "...The wide-scale sale and repurchase of subprime mortgages has been absolutely devastating to the financial community of this country, and the world."

Murdock also offered views on the ever-rising cost of fuel.

"The basic rules of economics no longer apply in the petroleum industry," he said. "...How many of you have quit buying gasoline at \$4, \$4.15? It isn't happening."

The forecast Mourdock offered for fuel prices was not favorable.

"I don't see any reason why it's going to stop at where it is," he said, "and that is obviously very, very scary for our economy."

However, Mourdock did give attendees a promising report on the future of the Indiana economy.

Murdock believes this can be partially attributed to Indiana's successful attraction of foreign investors, including the automotive industry.

"It starts with the fact that Hoosiers, unlike many, are much more accepting to the global economy than the rest of America," he said.

The leasing of the Indiana Toll Road is another factor Mourdock cites as a boost to the state's financial status.

"We are doing astoundingly well," he said.

After addressing the crowd, Mourdock spoke with *The Times* regarding Clinton County's economic prospects.

Murdock views the county's location between Indianapolis and Purdue University as beneficial.

"I think you're going to see more and more investment," he said.

The treasurer also noted the Industrial Park, and the possibilities State Road 28 presents as positives for the community.

"You've got great potential out there," he said. "I think it's just a matter of time until all the resources out there are recognized."

Additionally, Mourdock offered financial planning advice to residents.

While the U.S. market has traditionally been the growth opportunity in the world, Mourdock believes international investing presents an additional option.

"I think the markets have been proven enough that it is a sound strategy," he said.

However, Mourdock stressed the need to build a nest egg.

"There are a lot of people that save nothing, and think they can live off of Social Security," he said, "but they're going to find out that that \$600 a month isn't all that much in the 21st century."

Joe Catron came away from Mourdock's speech with a positive outlook.

"I think we've got a lot of things to look forward to," he said.

Ted Cripe agreed.

"We are living in a very good area because of the optimism of what we can do for our economy," he said.

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